

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139221
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DRTELLEN:JES
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139221

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR CHARGE FROM NEA/INS KUX

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, NP

SUBJECT: AID FY 79

REF: KATHMANDU 2262

1. WE ARE NOW FOCUSING ON THE ABS DOCUMENT IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORMAL REVIEW. SAM BUTTERFIELD WILL MAKE AN INITIAL PRESENTATION TO AMBASSADOR HECK AND SOME AID OFFICIALS THIS THURSDAY, THE ASIA BUREAU LOOKS AT THE DOCUMENT NEXT WEEK AND THE FORMAL SESSION WILL BE JUNE 28. YOUR VIEWS HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL TO US IN DEVELOPING OUR OWN THINKING, AND THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR YOU TO COMMENT FORMALLY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ABS DOCUMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE AN EMBASSY STATEMENT AS IS CUSTOMARY WITH COUNTRY SUBMISSIONS. YOU MIGHT SLUG YOUR CABLE FOR SPIKE AND ME BUT SEND IT IN OPEN CHANNELS SO IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO AID HERE IN WASHINGTON. IT WOULD
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BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF YOU SEND IT JUNE 17 SO IT IS AVAILABLE
HERE JUNE 20.

2. YOU KNOW MY VIEWS ON AID AND PERSONNEL LEVELS, AND AFTER STUDYING THE ABS DOCUMENT AND YOUR CABLE PLUS YOUR JUNE 10 LETTER, I PROPOSE A FIRM STAND AGAINST EXPANSIONS OF THE MAGNITUDE PROPOSED. I AM THINKING IN TERMS OF HOLD-

ING THE LINE ON DIRECT HIRE AMERICANS AND LIMITING THE PROGRAM BUDGET INCREASE TO 17 MILLION DOLS, WHICH IS STILL A RESPECTABLE 25 PERCENT JUMP OVER 1978 LEVELS.

3. I THINK YOUR CABLE WAS FINE, AND SUGGEST ONLY THAT YOU LEAD OFF WITH THE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AS SET OUT IN PARAS 3 AND 8 OF REFTEL. THEN FOLLOW WITH THE PERSONNEL DISCUSSION, WHICH WE DON'T HAVE FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE. THEREAFTER I WOULD PRESENT YOUR VIEWS ON THE RAPTI ZONE (PARA 2 REFTEL). ALSO SUGGEST SOME COMMENT ON THE HILLS PROGRAM, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE ITS HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT STRIKES ME AS PERHAPS COMMITTING A VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE STUDY OF THE OVERALL SITUATION, ETC.

4. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO HAVE COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE ON THE ADD-ONS TO EXISTING PROJECTS, WHICH ARE NOT CLEARLY EXPLAINED IN THE ABS. WITHOUT GETTING INTO NITPICKS, A FEW EXAMPLES LIKE THE HOUSING UNITS AND COST OVERRUNS IN REFTEL PARA 7 WOULD BE HELPFUL, BUT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU FOCUS MAINLY ON RAPTI AND HILLS, THE TWO BIG MONEY SPENDERS FOR FY 79.

5. AMBASSADOR HECK NATURALLY FEELS THAT HE SHOULD RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON ANY SPECIFICS UNTIL HE CAN GET OUT THERE AND SEE THINGS FOR HIMSELF - AND PARTICULARLY GAUGE THE ATTITUDES OF THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, HE DOES FEEL THAT ANYTHING MAJOR SHOULD BE STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY
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BEFORE WE COMMIT OURSELVES. HE HAS SEEN THE REFTEL AND HAS NO PROBLEM WITH YOU TRANSMITTING YOUR VIEWS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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